

JOHN BROWN

NO KKK- NO Fascist USA!

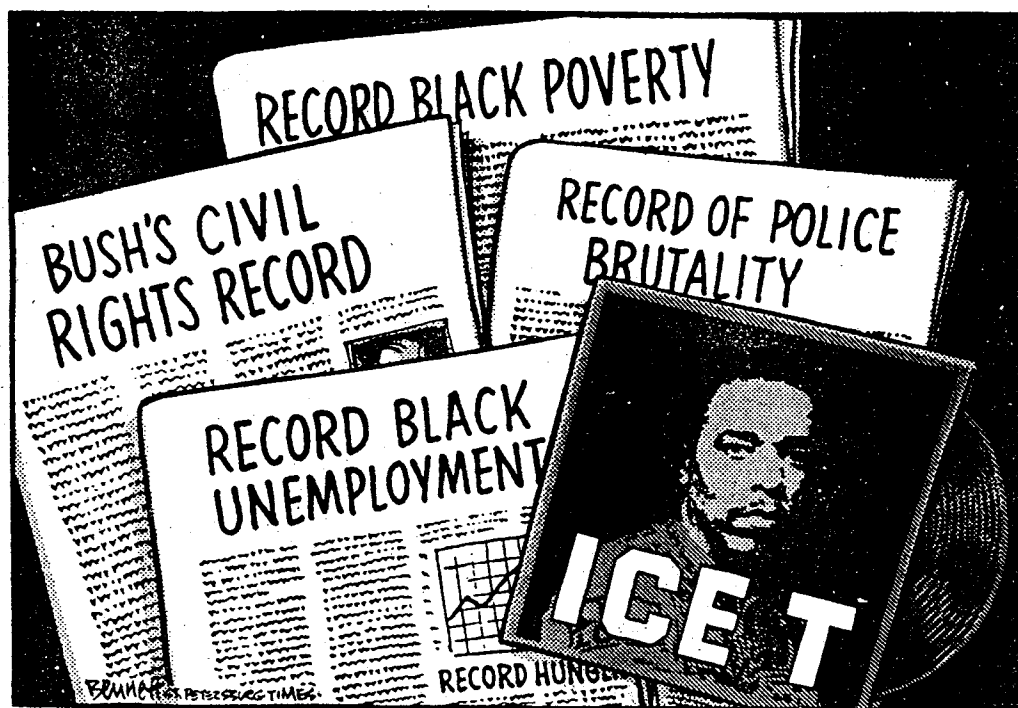
NEWSPAPER OF THE JOHN BROWN ANTI-KLAN COMMITTEE

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UNHEARD VOICES OF THE L.A. REBELLION



Which records incite violence?..

As the dust settles from the most deadly and costly urban rebellion in U.S. history, politicians and the media are rapidly rewriting May 1992 into oblivion. None of the issues that triggered the rebellion—uncontrolled police terror against Black people and other people of color, constantly rising unemployment figures, INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) harassment of Latino people—are even being addressed.

We are bringing No KKK! readers six articles that give voice to some of those who have not been heard. ▲ Black

political prisoner/prisoner of war Dr. Mutulu Shakur, p.4 ▲ a representative of the progressive Korean community, p.11 ▲ a report from L.A.'s gay community, (Black & white), p.22 ▲ a spokesperson for Latino people harassed and deported by the INS, p.15 ▲ an Atlanta student leader, p.20, and the ▲ Crips/Bloods' plan to redevelop L.A., for people affected by the conditions that

gave rise to the rebellions in L.A. and other places, p.13. These perspectives have mostly been ignored by the mainstream media. No KKK! is pleased to print them here for our readers.

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INSIDE

**RACISM IN GERMANY, 1992 ELECTIONS,
VOTERS ON THE RIGHT, LETTERS, NEWS BRIEFS,
DEATH PENALTY = LEGAL LYNCHING,
POETRY AND MORE**

LETTERS

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Dear JBAKC:

I am a college student in North Carolina. Not too long ago there was a Klan rally in Wilson, NC. This was not far from where I go to school so I helped organize a group to "bear witness" and peacefully protest.

This rally was the first time I had ever come face to face with the hatred and bigotry of the KKK. All I can say is that it made me sick!

I want to very much be a part of the movement to end the hate of the KKK and to battle racism in all its forms.

▲▲▲▲▲▲▲

Dear JBAKC:

I have been in France for the last few months. I couldn't pass up a chance to see how other like-minded people were handling the increasing world-wide xenophobia. It is more prevalent in France than the papers would have you believe. It is hard to believe the reaction of the people of France to the changes in their world ... they are reacting like hordes of barbarians are going to rush in and take over the city. It is unbelievable.

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Dear JBAKC:

Here in Birmingham in the last 3-4 months a lot of shit has been going down with the punks and nazis and the Klan. For a while it seemed like they were gonna be gone except for 2 or 3 of them so we weren't too worried. But I guess we should have been, because now a man named Bill Ricio, the so-called leader of the Klan and starter of a W.A.R. chapter here has been really stirring it up. The skinhead or racist skinhead problem is getting way out of hand!!!!

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Dear JBAKC:

Recently at my high school in McMinnville OR we experienced a hate crime. During morning break in the

commons area where a majority of the students gather, about 100 students, most of whom would be classified as "jocks" (although I heard one of the two people claiming to be nazi and one of the two claiming to be SHARP skinheads were involved) gathered around a boy wearing black makeup and began to yell slurs referring to homosexuals, made threats to his life, threw bottles and covered him in spit. Many members of the student body and the community are outraged. Since the incident there have been various meetings and conferences concerning the situation and there are still more planned. A number of us are talking about starting something in our school or in the community to combat all forms of prejudice and do our best to make sure something like this doesn't happen again.

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Dear JBAKC:

We are a British-based organization fighting the rise of racism and fascism on our continent (but have a global perspective). We were originally the Campaign Against Fascism in France, and during a visit by French Nazi Le Pen in December (1991) we managed to mobilize opposition so successfully that Le Pen had to flee via a back door, without a single Conservative member of Parliament daring to associate with him publicly. This was a severe setback for his hosts, Western Goals, the extreme right group which hoped to build a European network with Le Pen as leader.

Now Western Goals have invited your very own Pat Buchanan to Britain. We have therefore launched a Committee to Stop Buchanan and intend to fight him as bitterly as we fought Le Pen....

**WRITE TO JBAKCI WE NEED TO
HEAR FROM YOU TO KNOW
WHAT'S HAPPENING!**

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NEWS BRIEFS

BLACK COMMUNITY SAYS NO TO NAZIS IN BIRMINGHAM

Hundreds of demonstrators, mostly Black, mostly young marched in Birmingham, Alabama on June 13, 1992 to contest a white supremacist march of 60 nazi skinheads. Led by members of the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, a Black political organization that supports self-determination for the Black community, the demonstration started with a rally in downtown Linn Park, where both groups rallied, separated by a fence erected by the police. Speakers called for the Black community to defend itself from white supremacist violence and for anti-racist white people to organize opposition to nazi skinheads in the white community. Instead of "chasing after the Klan," the rally continued after the racists went on their march. When the racists returned to the park, the Black demonstrators confronted them and drowned them out with chants for a quarter of an hour. Then, led by members of the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement the demonstrators went on their own march through downtown and the projects, chanting "Whose streets? Our streets!"

TAKING AIM AT RACISM IN SPORTS

Demonstrations at the 1991 World Series, led by the American Indian Movement (AIM) and supported by Against Racism in Sports Events (ARISE), demanded that Atlanta's baseball team drop their racist logo - the "Tomahawk Chop" - and stop calling themselves "braves." Action was also taken at the Super Bowl against the Washington "Redskins." They have been urged to change their name by the Washington, D.C. City Council. The Columbus, GA "Indians," a farm team of the

Cleveland "Indians", have changed their name. Since Atlanta's management rejected the demands for a name change, expect more demos at the 1992 championship playoffs.

PAT ROBERTSON ON FEMINISM

Evangelist Pat Robertson, who made the Monday night keynote address at the Republican Convention, in a fund-raising letter organizing against an equal rights amendment to the Iowa constitution:

MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING PAT ROBERTSON FEMINIST ALLIANCE

Left husband.....X
Killed children.....X
Practiced witchcraft.....X
Became a lesbian.....X
Destroyed capitalism.....0

What the heck, 4 out
of 5 ain't bad!

"This proposal," Robertson writes, "is not about equal rights for women. Instead, it is a socialist, anti-family political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism and become lesbians."

ARYAN NATIONS FUGITIVE SURRENDERS IN IDAHO

Randy Weaver, an Aryan Nations soldier who has been holed up with his

HISTORIC FORGERY

Forged bible in one hand
Gun in the other
Crusade as an instrument
of destruction
History rewritten to worship
the coming of Europeans
Dark races slandered as
savages
The whiter the more
privileged
Nations propped with new
characters
Genocide in the name of
democracy
that never existed

—Charles Chatman
Attica State Prison, New York

family in a cabin in northern Idaho since February 1991 when he failed to show up in court on a Federal weapons charge, surrendered to U.S. marshals in a deal negotiated by Col. Bo Gritz, once Weaver's commanding officer in the Special Forces (and this year's presidential candidate of the white supremacist Populist Party). One marshal was killed on August 19, 1992 in an exchange of gunfire with the occupants of the cabin. Weaver's wife Vicki and a 13-year-old son were also killed in the shootout. Weaver called them "martyrs for the white race."

Weaver is accused of selling illegal sawed-off shotguns and is believed to have planned to sell weapons to Black gangs to increase the death rate among

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UNHEARD VOICES I

The Trial: "NO RIGHTS THAT TWELVE WHITE MEN ARE BOUND TO RESPECT"

BY DR. MUTULU SHAKUR

Dr. Mutulu Shakur is a Black political prisoner and prisoner of war currently held in the U.S. Federal prison in Lompoc, California, on charges of helping Black Liberation Army leader Assata Shakur escape from a New Jersey prison in 1979 and other politically motivated acts. A doctor of acupuncture, Dr. Shakur led the Black Acupuncture Association of North America (BAANA), a clinic that provided free alternative medicine to the Black and Puerto Rican communities of New York. The following is excerpted from a longer interview.

I watched the trial for four hours almost every day ... For a while I was wondering why the defense was so hell-bent on showing the Rodney King beating on this video time and time again. Then it

message upon which to make a people's consensus to the policemen's behavior against the African population. So at the trial torture was described with words such as "pain compliance" and "PK 40" for batons to make sure that they had successfully set in motion an acceptance for the brutal beatings and killings of African people all over this continent.

They put on the stand a Captain Michaels of the L.A.P.D. who got trained by the FBI in Quantico, Virginia. He explained the justification for 52 blows. They cut that tape down to seconds, 52 framed seconds; they justified the fact that this man was hit, justifiably because he did not prostrate his whole being and mentality, his everything, to the will of

Valley. Now, Simi Valley is all retired police officers. So when they went to Simi Valley, the fix is in. Now Terry White is in there with a jury panel with 2% Black people. So he picks his jury, and if that is not bad enough he picks his jury with three ex-policemen on the jury.... That decision is made by the prosecutor, which is a political appointment.

When the decision was made to go with that jury ... what the governor's office did was say that they were not going to make race an issue in this case.... In the future litigation of this case that is going to be an essential error. So what the prosecution did is to set out to prove that these policemen operated on a criminal basis outside of their job description. So when they went on trial the attorneys for the police proved they did not operate outside of the policy and training of the L.A.P.D. and they were supported by Captain Michaels agreeing that their training mandated that they operate in that way.

They put the policy and the training methods on trial and the jury voted for the policy and said that these men did not do anything illegal because what they did was in the framework of the policies laid out and their training in the L.A.P.D.

Now the political leaders want to focus on the four policemen and try to get a [Federal civil rights violation] verdict against these men when, in fact, they were following their orders. We need to focus ourselves on the policies of the police department in America and identify them as a violation of Black and Third World people's human rights by this nation, not by its individuals. By its nature it is designed to disrespect, dehumanize and torture us. As we go into the 21st century, we have resisted and we have recognized that we have no rights that white men are bound to respect or this government is bound to respect. ▲

They put the policy and the training methods on trial and the jury voted for the policy and said that these men did not do anything illegal.

occurred to me that they were very clear who their jury was. They knew that they had a jury of their peers, and what they were doing was to set out a political objective that had been discussed and outlined by the Reagan and Bush administrations for law and order and repression of the masses of African people.

They brought to the trial the use-of-force experts. These experts' objective was to desensitize the masses to the type of brutal torture that Rodney King felt. He was hit 52 times in 85 seconds. They wanted Middle America to accept this because Black men and women have no rights that the United States government is bound to respect. This was a very clear

the white man and that is what they put across during the time of the trial.

During the trial here in Los Angeles various [radio and TV] stations were supporting the police and supporting the prosecution; that became a poll as people began to call into that station. When they believed they had gotten a sufficient number of white middle class people to accept that beating they ended the case.

The prosecutor, Terry White ... put on the case that he thought was sufficient in view of the evidence that he had. ... But the error here was that Terry White was subordinate to the prosecutor's office in Los Angeles. The prosecutor's office agreed with the change of venue to Simi

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Racist Violence on the Rampage in Unified Germany and Rest of Europe

BY ANNIE JOHNSTON AND MICKEY ELLINGER

Sept. 25, 1992 - As we go to press, a month-long wave of racist attacks on immigrants in Rostock and other cities in Germany is being actively or passively supported by much of the population. It is also being met by demonstrations of tens of thousands of anti-racists confronting the neo-Nazis and their sympathizers and protesting government passivity. Although the situation has finally hit the mainstream U.S. media, No KKK! correspondents have been writing to us for more than a year with details of racist attacks and anti-racist responses, as well as reflections on the causes of the growing boldness of violent racism. This article brings together information from No KKK! correspondents and anti-fascist organizations here and in Europe.

Berlin: A No KKK! correspondent: "In the autumn of 1991 a house with foreigners was attacked nearly every day, and several foreigners were killed." Another correspondent: "There were more than 1,500 incidents of racist violence reported in Germany in 1991. This represents an increase of five and a half times the number recorded the year before."

Hoyersweda, September 1991. Racist attacks on Vietnamese in refugee hostels went unopposed by the government until anti-racists mounted country-wide demonstrations, including a huge convoy from Berlin in late September.

Mannheim, June 1992: Racist attacks on a refugee housing project in the suburb of Schoenau went on for two weeks from the end of May until the middle of June. The city promised to expel the single men among the refugees and replace them with families. Anti-racist demonstrations held off the racist attackers until the police finally stepped in. Efforts at solidarity demonstrations with the refugees were banned by the local government, and anti-racist youth organizations and youth centers were attacked by the police.

Rostock, August 1992: For more than a week racists attacked refugee housing where 300 people, many of them Rumanian gypsies, are living. These attacks and those in other cities were coordinated by nazi organizations like German Alternative and were carried out by nazi skinheads and other racists with the tolerance, even support, of the local population.

We have received reports of such attacks from Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Hungary, Spain, Poland and the Balkans. The targets are Rumanian gypsies and other peoples who have sought asylum in Germany from the racial/ethnic violence of Eastern Europe, as well as Vietnamese, Africans, Jews and gays.

The attacks are often carried out by organized racist forces, but they are widely supported.

A correspondent from Brussels: "21% of the population of former East Germany say they have sympathy for the people who attack foreigners. 38% of the population of West Germany say they have sympathy for the racists."



Racist violence is on the rise throughout Europe and the fascist and racist organizations are forging new links. Dennis Mahon, a KKK leader from Oklahoma, made a tour of Germany in November 1991 seeking to build ties between the U.S. and European fascist movements. In France the violently anti-immigrant National Front of Jean Le Pen has enjoyed considerable electoral success (more than 15% of the vote nationwide), and similar parties have sprung up in Flanders and Germany. In Holland, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Spain, England, and France, fascist parties today often receive 10% to 25% of the popular vote, pushing the entire political spectrum far to the right.

Why is racist violence growing so fast? Actually, even with all the recent immigration from Eastern Europe, Western Europe has less than 2% foreign population. But, unlike the U.S. where it is very difficult to get political asylum and refugees are subject to deportation (such as the Haitian refugees turned back by Bush in the summer of 1992), European countries and Germany in particular have fairly permissive asylum laws. So as the countries of the former Soviet bloc disintegrate into ethnic and national violence, hundreds of thousands of people have sought refuge. Our correspondents analyze some of the political consequences.

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Amsterdam: "The fascist parties in Holland are gaining votes from disillusioned people who used to vote for the social-democrats. There is also a danger from the populists, who are making immigrant policy their major theme. In the emotional crisis of our society, politicians are abandoning ties with the people. Racism and fascism are rising and becoming strong emotional elements in the minds of lower class people who are ignored by politicians.

Berlin: "This [Rostock] is only the latest and most extreme attack in an increasing wave of racist and fascist violence in Germany. The situation has no doubt been instigated by neo-nazi groups, but it feeds off a large bed of racism and xenophobia in the German population as evidenced by the large crowd of onlookers made up of 'normal Germans.'

"The state and mass media play a large part as well. Blame for the worsening social conditions in Germany, especially in the east, has been placed on the refugees, channeling the rage away from the state. Also the political debate around the asylum laws worsen the situation. The right wants to change the constitutional guarantee to political asylum, and the liberal Social Democrats are slowly coming to this position too. Instead of confronting the rising fascism in Germany, the parties placate them and use them for their own goals. In the last years it has again become legal for asylum seekers to be put in assembly camps until their applications are processed. In these camps, they can't work, and must get permission to leave or to receive visitors. The asylum procedure is also being shortened."

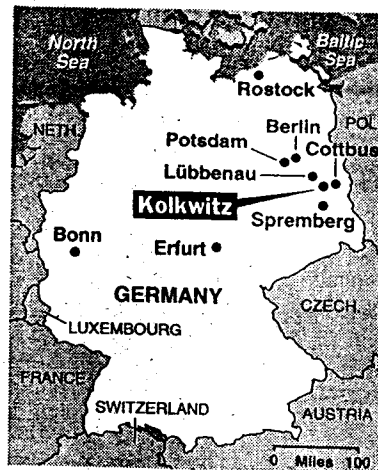
Capitalists in a united Europe facing a declining birth rate actually want immigrants. But they also want more control over the immigrant and refugee population. Part of unification is a uniform asylum policy and more militarized borders between the European Community's 12 nations and other states.

The left in Europe has responded with anti-fascist mobilizations, often engaging in physical confrontations to kick Nazi skinheads out of neighborhoods or community activities. When leading fascist figures appear in public, the anti-fascist left organizes militant opposition. Skinheads from the

Lubeck Bootboys and Girls organized a march protesting politicians who mobilize skins for their own reactionary purposes. Their main slogan: "Skinheads are not Nazis!" In Amsterdam on March 21, 1992, 100,000 people took to the streets to protest against the rise of racism and fascism. In Germany, in addition to the banned demonstration in Mannheim in June, there was a demonstration of tens of thousands opposing racism in Rostock.

Berlin: A No KKK! correspondent tells us that the Revolutionary Cells (RZ) have been attacking government agencies which deport refugees.

Amsterdam: A No KKK! correspondent reported that a clandestine Dutch group, Radical Anti Racist Action



(RARA), claimed responsibility for two bomb attacks in "protest against growing repression against refugees, immigrants and left radicals by politicians in Holland and in other countries like France, Germany and Belgium." The bombs exploded at the house of the Minister of the Department of Immigration, and at the Office of the Department of Immigration of the Netherlands. They caused neither casualties nor injuries, and were termed, by the RARA communique, "necessary actions of anti-violence."

More recently, the left has begun focusing on the issues driving the new popularity of racism. They are working with youth gangs, countering anti-immigrant propaganda with educational work, and working in coalitions to address social problems such as unemployment, housing, etc. A Holland No KKK! correspondent reported that a na-

tional anti-fascist network (LAFO) is growing there. New links are being forged, for instance, through cooperation between illegal immigrants and squatters to get housing for illegal immigrants.

Immigrants are also organizing themselves. A correspondent in France says that there more than 4000 self-defense and self-help organizations have been established by immigrants. Another in Germany reports that in the north German town of Norderstedt refugees have occupied a church to resist their forced transfer to another town.

Immigrant youth are also fighting back. A No KKK! correspondent in Holland reports that "the violence of racist police in France, Britain, and Belgium leads to race riots between police and immigrant youngsters... The Turkish youth of Berlin (also) have a reputation for using effective tactics against nazi skinheads." The latter have recently formed a new organization in the Berlin Turkish community, Anti-fascist Youth.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

One group, Antirassistische Initiative in Berlin, asks for solidarity actions at German embassies, consulates, and corporations. "Demand an end to the racist violence in Rostock and elsewhere; demand that the refugee policy not be tightened in Germany; demand free and open borders for all, not only in Germany, but everywhere, especially the U.S. whose policy of deporting Haitians is more barbaric than anything the German state does."

ORGANIZATIONS TO CONTACT IN EUROPE:

We don't have addresses for all the organizations listed above. The addresses we have are:

Antifa-Info-Blatt, Gneisenaustr. 2a, 1000 Berlin 61, Germany

Dwars-antifa (Youth Against Fascism, Racism, and Sexism), Postbus 267 1000 AG Amsterdam, Holland

Campaign Against Fascism in Europe, P.O. Box 30, London SE15 5EP, England

Antifa Jugendfront, Gneisenaustrasse 1, 1000 Berlin 61, Germany.

Antirassistische Initiative, Yorckstr. 59, D-1000, Berlin 59, Germany. ▲

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ANTI-RACIST ACTION AND THE 1992 ELECTIONS

It seems like only yesterday that we sat around a meeting of the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee in San Francisco and discussed what it meant that David Duke was entering the Republican primaries. Nine months later as we go to press we have the spectacle of George Bush running for re-election on the political platform of David Duke and Pat Buchanan. At the same time the Democrats have made clear that they intend to focus their electoral appeal on the white suburban middle class. It's one of those times when anti-racists face a double challenge: to fight the boldest right-wing electoral assault in 30 years; and at the same time to look for creative ways outside the electoral arena to put anti-racist action on the U.S. political agenda.

ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS—THE GOP

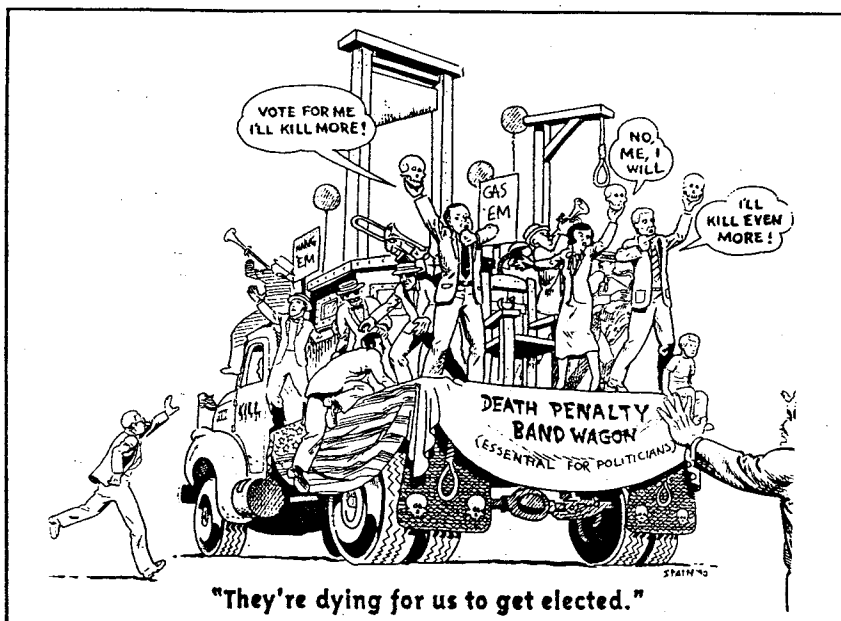
By now even the network news commentators have figured out that the Republican party has been captured by its right wing. (For a closer look at how this happened, see the article on the right wing strategy for local government and Republican Party organizations in this issue.) From Pat Buchanan supporting parents' "freedom of choice" to send their children to subsidized religious (i.e. fundamentalist Christian) schools, to Dan Quayle's unrestrained gay-bashing, to George Bush expressing his fervent desire to be the first U.S. president to set foot on the soil of a "free" (sic) Cuba, it's clear that the Grandiose Old Party is running as the party of the televangelists, racist right-wing journalists and mercenary adventurers.

THE WHITE FAMILY IS THE RIGHT FAMILY

The Republicans came out of the convention as the defenders of the traditional American family. In addition to an obvious effort to foment anti-gay hysteria, this

is also a racist attack on the extended family, the intergenerational family, the actual family for tens of millions of people of color. In fact, Dan and Marilyn's fantasy family is a reality for less than 10% of the U.S. population. And, while the media focus is on Quayle's attacks on

fending the Simi Valley verdict acquitting the Los Angeles police who beat Rodney King within an inch of his life. And while Bush may promise to rebuild obsolete Homestead Air Force Base to make jobs for the victims of Hurricane Andrew, the Republicans appear to have nothing to



Murphy Brown, the real target of his attack on single mothers is on the millions of working women, white and of color, who are, through choice or necessity, heads of the households in which their children are growing up.

This rediscovery of the precious white family evokes the founding myths of a white settler state—the pioneer family fighting off the bloodthirsty savages on the plains; the flower of Southern white womanhood menaced by brutal slaves and freedmen; the pedestal on which white women were placed to keep them out of politics, education, and business.

The Republican strategy seems to be simply to ignore the problems facing people in the cities, immigrants, and people of color. Dan Quayle no doubt speaks for many Republican candidates when he reduces the Los Angeles rebellion to "pointless violence", as does George Bush de-

say about the millions of inner city victims of twelve years of Reagan/ Bush cuts in social services and available housing.

As anti-racists, it's important to recognize that the GOP platform is a serious victory for the right wing. The right wing has a comprehensive agenda rooted in white and male supremacy, militarism and religious intolerance. They believe that women's place is in the home and the place of people of color is at the bottom of a very stratified heap. Even as the candidates try to distance themselves from some of the most outrageously racist and fascist of the platform planks, they are also explicitly running against human rights.

A WHITER SHADE OF PALE—SLICK WILLIE AND THE NEAR RIGHT

But anti-racists find little comfort with the Democrats either. With the Repub-

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licans captured by the far right, the Democrats have moved to the near right. While the demographers project a country that is a majority of people of color by 2020, in 1992 both parties are vying for the 60% of the electorate that lives in the suburbs of the central cities. This 60% is about 90% white, products of three decades of social policy that have subsidized housing in the suburbs while colluding in the collapse of the central cities.

Bill Clinton's and the Democrats' strategy was dramatically symbolized by

licans in their attacks on "welfare." And the Democrats seem at least as willing as the Republicans to send young people (most of them of color) into combat against Iraq or any other competitor of the U.S. ruling class.

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

Tough economic times can promote class consciousness or racist scapegoating or both. As the bad economic news keeps coming, the Republicans don't seem to be able to do much but blame the recession on the Democrats in Congress. On the

The anemic confines of the electoral system don't address the life and death issues for people of color, gay people, women and poor and working people in the U.S.

Clinton's highly publicized attack on Sister Souljah's support for the people of Los Angeles who rebelled after the L.A. police who beat Rodney King were acquitted. This orchestrated rift with Jesse Jackson sent a message to the suburbs that the Democrats no longer feel their traditional obligation to pay lip service to the human rights of people of color.

There is little comfort for anti-racists in what either party has or does not have to say about the human rights of people of color in the United States. The Republicans support anti-immigrant hysteria through support for a closed border. The Democrats support anti-foreign hysteria by accusing Bush of shipping U.S. jobs overseas. The Republicans give aid and comfort to supporters of English Only; the Democrats are silent on the subject of language rights.

The Republicans support the assault on social services and education at both federal and state levels. The Democrats support some kind of comprehensive health care, an issue that affects millions of white working people as well as poor people and people of color; but instead of proposing social service programs to help repair the damage of the dirty dozen years of the Reagan/Bush administrations, they seem to be competing with the Repub-

other hand, the Democrats are glad to blame the state of the economy on Bush, but are they blaming him for looting of the economy by bailing out savings and loans that were plundered by Bush policies, Bush cronies, even Bush children? No! Instead they're blaming them for letting companies send jobs overseas. Nobody's talking seriously about converting from war spending to spending for human needs. The pervasive racism of the Reagan/Bush attack on affirmative action is not being spoken to; in fact both parties seem to have agreed to keep civil rights and affirmative action for people of color out of the campaign discourse.

NEEDED: CREATIVE ANTI-RACIST ACTION

It's a time to be wary of getting too wrapped up in the Presidential campaign and the candidates. If we want to confront the rise of racism in our society we're clearly going to have to organize outside the anemic confines of the electoral system to bring attention to the issues that are matters of life and death for people of color, gay people, women and poor and working people in the U.S. Here are some ideas we have: let us know what you think and what people are doing where you are.

1. OPPOSE THE COLUMBUS CELEBRATIONS

Support Native people. Educate about what the European invasion of the Western Hemisphere meant to the people who were already here, as well as to the African people who were kidnapped and brought here as slaves. Support what Native people in your area are doing to organize about 500 years of resistance to colonialism and genocide. Oppose the heroic myth of the Europeans "discovering" an empty continent. If there's nothing where you live, organize something.

2. FIGHT ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM.

More than 90% of all the toxic waste dumps in the U.S. are located in communities of color. Whether it's air pollution, water pollution, contamination of the soil, hazardous substances on the job, people of color bear the brunt of the poisoning of the planet. Opposition is growing everywhere to these attacks on the lives of poor people, especially people of color. Usually these campaigns are led by the communities most affected. Anti-racists can make a difference by joining in these campaigns to support the demands of the communities. There's probably a struggle near you—against lead poisoning, against a toxic waste dump, against chemical spills.

3. FIND AND OPPOSE THE RIGHT IN YOUR BACK-YARD.

The right wing is not only trying to take over the Presidency; they are running for school board, hospital board, sheriff and judge right in your community, often keeping a very low profile about their politics. Expose them; let people know their real agenda; find out who backs them and where their money comes from. Don't let local talk show hosts or newspapers get away with pushing a right-wing agenda without opposition.

4. FIGHT RACIST VIOLENCE.

So-called "hate crimes" continue to rise. They feed off the climate of racism. The voices and organizing energy of anti-racists can make a real difference between downplaying these crimes and mobilizing people to oppose them. ▲

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BIG BUCK\$ BACK RIGHT-WING'S GRASSROOTS ELECTORAL PUSH

BY ALAN HUFF

It's an election year and the media are working overtime to draw public attention to the presidential campaigns. Any leftover time is used to cover races for the U.S. Congress and other high offices. With the fizzle of David Duke's and Pat Buchanan's presidential bids, it's easy to imagine that the far right is off in the corner licking its wounds and waiting for 1996. Perhaps in a couple of years they will resurface with a new contender trying to achieve what white supremacist Duke and ultra-conservative Buchanan failed to do in '92 and Christian right evangelist Pat Robertson flopped at in '88.

OUT OF THE PEW AND INTO THE VOTING BOOTH

But the Christian right tasted another kind of victory at the Republican Convention in Houston in August—the adoption of the right-wing agenda as the Republican platform—which has added new vigor to the Christian right's grass roots strategy. Distrustful of “moderate” George Bush, for the last four years the Christian right-wingers have been directing their efforts to revolution from below. In California and across the country, they have quietly yet persistently been going after smaller victories, using ballot initiatives to bring right-wing issues to a vote and running candidates for positions on school boards, city councils, hospital and other boards—even irrigation district posts.

Dubbed “stealth candidates,” these Christian fundamentalists have generally avoided public forums, interviews and

debates, focusing instead on speaking at local fundamentalist churches and making sure the members register and come out to vote. Many have limited their leafleting to church parking lots and have used church directories for their



phone canvassing. “This is a God-inspired movement,” Jay Grimstead, founder of the Coalition on Revival, told the *San Francisco Chronicle*; “there’s nothing the liberals can do to stop it.”

Although drawing on support from coalitions of far-right politicians, Christian groups, and local churches, these candidates have often hidden their political and religious agenda until after the elections. And they have been winning.

San Diego County in southern California is seen as a model for grass roots right-wing Christian campaigns. In 1990 about 90 ultra-right candidates ran for a number of local offices. Sixty won. At the same time, the fundamentalists have been infiltrating and quietly taking over chapters of the California Republican

Assembly, the party's most important organization of volunteers. By 1991, the Christian right had taken over most of the Republican county central committees in that state and elected its candidate for state party president. This year,

right-wing Christians are expanding their activities throughout California, including efforts at capturing seats in the state legislature. Joining together under names such as Citizens for Responsible Government and Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition, they are also heavily involved in statewide campaigns for such conservative pet projects as school vouchers (allowing parents to use public school tax money for the private education of their kids), restricting abortion rights, promoting welfare cutbacks, and blocking or overturning gay rights ordinances.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

California is not the only right-wing target. Oregon is expected to pass a state constitutional amendment declaring that homosexuality is “abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse” and that “state monies shall not be used to promote, facilitate or encourage” homosexuality. Lon Mabon, author of the amendment and leader of the Christian rightist Oregon Citizens Alliance, “was feted in Washington by Housing Secretary Jack Kemp and Republican Senators Orrin Hatch and Phil Gramm,” the *New York Times* reported. Meanwhile, opponents of the Oregon amendment have had their homes, businesses, and offices vandalized.

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The Christian right's electoral activities in California are being exposed by groups like the Mainstream Voter Project in San Diego and Project Tocsin—Warning of the Dangers of Theocracy in Sacramento. Also investigative reporters who have revealed financial ties between State Assembly candidates and wealthy southern California businessmen such as Robert Hurtt and Howard Fieldstead Ahmanson Jr., who have bankrolled many Christian right projects.

Hurtt and Ahmanson were founders of the Capitol Commonwealth Group, which screens candidates "to get solid pro-family, pro-business people in office." Hurtt also chairs the Capitol Resources Institute, affiliated with "Focus on the Family," a Christian broadcast ministry.

Ahmanson is a well-known benefactor of Christian right causes, including the Christian Reconstructionist movement, which seeks to impose a strict biblical law on modern society in preparation for the second coming of Christ. Reconstructionists claim that the Old Testament requires the death penalty for homosexuality, bestiality, witchcraft, and the "rape of a betrothed virgin."

PICK A BILL, ANY BILL

Rich donors assure that grass roots candidates are not restrained by meager grass roots financial contributions. Then, if elected, city, county, and state legislators gain substantial right-wing support for legislative activism. A growing number of wealthy ultra-right foundations and think tanks have begun directing their efforts and resources away from Washington and towards state and local campaigns. Central to the effort to project a conservative agenda are a host of small think tanks. Over 100 "baby tanks" are located in Washington, DC, with many others springing up around the country. The tanks' strategy has been to win over legislators, who often lack the time and staff support (and, too often, the brain-power) to investigate issues and form opinions, to conservative policies by deluging them with studies and policy papers. With increasing frequency, legislation—proposed and in

some cases already passed—can be traced to think tank position papers on conservative agenda items such as school vouchers, anti-abortion and anti-gay legislation, English-only policies (which prohibit bilingual education), criminal penalties for sex outside of marriage and for use of contraceptives in or out of marriage, deregulation of workplace safety, privatization of public services, welfare cuts, tax limits and cuts and other reductions in government—even selling off the national parks. A major push is directed at schools—to allow school prayer and biblical accounts of creation in science classes, and to ban sex education.

The tanks are increasingly visible on the local and state political scenes:

▲ California Governor Pete Wilson's proposed welfare cuts are based directly on the argument pushed by the Heritage Foundation that poverty is caused by behavior, and that welfare should be based on behavior modification, that is, punishment for behavior the state finds detrimental to its interests.

Heritage publications call for an end to increases for welfare families who have additional children; Wilson's plan would repeal all aid to pregnant women and freeze grants to mothers already receiving aid if they have more children. Heritage would penalize long-term welfare recipients; Wilson's plan reduces payments for families on welfare longer than six months. Wilson has warm relations with a number of think tanks. Last fall he ran his welfare plan past the "experts" at Stanford University's Hoover Institute, the oldest and richest conservative tank.

▲ Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas developed his "natural law" theories under the auspices of the Institute of Contemporary Studies, a San Francisco tank which has published more than 70 books since its founding in 1972. Along with its domestic legal and social programs (Wilson has sought its advice), ICS also promotes a rigid free-market ideology in the Third World through the International Center for Economic Growth and the Washington-based Sequoia Institute, both funded in part by the U.S. Government.

▲ Reason, another California tank, advocates private ownership of infrastructure, such as roads, sewage treatment plants, and airports. An idea for private toll roads, first offered in a newspaper opinion piece by Reason's president, Robert Poole, was picked up and passed by the California legislature.

▲ The rebellion that followed the Rodney King verdict gave the Bush administration a chance to act on the privatization concept: the White House recommended selling LAX to private businesses to finance urban renewal.

▲ Michigan's Governor John Engler and Massachusetts' Governor William Weld have staffed their administrations from right-wing tanks' ranks.

▲ The Heartland Institute in Chicago, formed as a result of the successful effort to deregulate taxi service there, is franchising itself throughout the midwest. Its Wisconsin tanklet orchestrated the campaign that blocked a state health insurance plan.

CORPORATIONS CONTRIBUTE

The smaller think tanks and similar organizations are usually linked to larger institutions, such as Heritage, Heartland, and the Madison Group, which provide them with resources and training. Heritage, founded in 1973 with a \$50,000 grant from beer baron Joseph Coors, gained in influence after providing the policy blueprints for the early days of the Reagan administration. Some credit it with creating Reaganism. Today Heritage is a \$20 million operation. Financing for the think tanks comes mainly from right-wing foundations such as Coors, Scaife, Earhart, and Carthage; from corporations such as Chevron, Amoco, Shell, Xerox, Dow Chemical, Ford Motor, and Dean Witter; and from thousands of rich individuals.

An important link between the tanks and legislators is the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), which is closely affiliated with the Heritage Foundation. Committed to "free markets, free enterprise, limited government and individual liberties," ALEC pushes corporate interests at the

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UNHEARD VOICES II

"THIS WAS NOT BETWEEN BLACKS AND KOREANS"

No KKK!: I have three questions for you, from your perspective of Young Koreans United. What was behind the rebellion in Los Angeles in May? What lessons were learned from it? And, what kind of positive campaigns do you see going on in its aftermath?

YKU: The failure of the federal programs towards domestic needs brewed this civil discontent for many years. There was a great deal of funds devoted towards military efforts, building up the military industry.

That in turn contributed to the militarization of the economy, and at the same time domestic programs lagged. That problem was very apparent during the Reagan and Bush administrations. So that the failure of the domestic programs shaped the overall civil discontent.

Also, infrastructure, education, social programs and other areas deteriorated during those two administrations, and very little has been done to address these areas. In fact, much was done to undermine the achievements gained during the civil rights movement, such as affirmative action, labor, education and busing. Over the years, the problem was especially acute in South Central. The poverty rate has increased over the years. In 1965, around the time of the Watts rebellion, the poverty rate for South Central was about 20 %. Nowadays, it's a little bit above 30%. Things have not improved but in fact deteriorated.

Unemployment among African-American youth has fluctuated around 50% for many years. Police brutality has been a severe, severe problem for the people in South Central. Civil rights were completely disregarded in the streets. African-American people in a group setting were denied their civil rights, and were arrested for the reasons of being poor, Black and living in South Central.

Not only that, a lot of other factors

came into undermining the community, such as the heavy competition among ethnic groups. Since Watts [the Watts rebellion in 1965], Latinos have come into South Central so that Latinos comprise a very large percentage of the South Central population. Korean merchants have moved into the scene and have taken out a portion of the limited resources there. So, coupled with a bad economy, deteriorating socio-economic conditions and se-

In 1945, the U.S. colonized Korea and instilled the Korean people with the same biases that exist here—they exported racism to Korea.

vere competition for limited resources, there was a period of civil discontent brewing, and then it just finally exploded upon the verdict of the "Rodney King trial". And, people just basically expressed their frustration by saying that they had had enough, and took to the street.

It was unfortunate that there wasn't any leadership to amass this energy into concerted political actions. Instead, the very limited voices of reason, progressive voices, were quickly overwhelmed by people's very strong desire to express frustration. So it turned into massive violence.

Some of the lessons that we can draw from this is that the progressive movement has basically failed to be in touch with the people. Many of us were shocked by the Rodney King verdict. We shouldn't have been shocked. We should have

AN INTERVIEW WITH KYUNG KYU LIM

never overestimated the system, the legal system. We should have realized that a problem was going to occur when the trial venue was moved up to Simi Valley, and we should have realized that this type of upheaval was up and coming, and we should have done some actions to orchestrate concrete political action, and yet we failed to do that.

A second lesson is that the problems in our urban areas are incredibly severe, so severe that people are willing to express their frustration at any moment. The situation is like trying to light a match in a dry forest. The slightest mistake will result in a massive blaze. So everything has to be careful.

A third lesson is that the establishment and the media will do their best to inflame the situation rather than alleviate it. The example is the LAPD, the National Guard cordoning off the Los Angeles area just before the suburbs and the white-owned business districts. It basically led to people of color, whether it's African-American, Latino, Korean, Chinese, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Arab—just let them have it out among themselves. So there was very little "enforcement of the law." The establishment and the media are very quick in blaming the problem as a so-called racial conflict between the people of color. The media has really focussed in on the so-called Black-Korean conflict as if that was an underpinning factor in this upheaval, when in fact the core of the problem is socio-economic degradation of South-Central. The core of the problem is neglect from the federal government towards domestic programs. And yet the establishment and the media are trying to distort the issue by portraying it as a specific conflict between African-Americans and Koreans. Totally untrue.

The fourth lesson is that the establish-

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ment is constantly trying to prevent the forging of coalitions between communities. In Los Angeles the majority population is the ethnic minorities: Asians, African-Americans, Latinos, Arabs, and a whole assortment of ethnicities. We comprise the majority and the establishment is fearful of coalitions existing. So they use the timeless tactic of divide-and-conquer to make sure that we fight it out among ourselves and not amass our political strength so that we translate our political strength into the ballot, into elections, into legal implementation of changes.

Another lesson is that things can re-occur. Things are so fragile, so sensitive at this point that problems can re-occur at the slightest tremor, at the slightest instigation. The four police officers are about to be tried at the federal level, but there's no guarantee that they will be convicted. And if they're not, if they go scot-free this time, then we cannot predict what kind of response will come from the community. If they are not sentenced, then who knows what might happen.

Some things have to happen very soon to alleviate this pressure, and alleviating this pressure means engaging in dialogue. I cannot speak about other communities. I have some idea about the Korean community. The Korean community knows very little about African-Americans. Koreans have been basically conditioned by the United States with institutionalized racism that exists here. In 1945, the U.S. colonized Korea and has instilled the Korean people with the same biases in the media, entertainment and education that exist here; exported racism to Korea. When Koreans have immigrated to the U.S., we brought with us the same racism that is so prevalent here. So that racism is reflected in the marketplace between the Korean merchants and the African-American customers, which is the venue that Koreans actually have contact with African-Americans in.

This racism has to stop. This will come from really serious efforts to understand the struggles of African-Americans, understand their history, their culture, and the great strides they made during the civil rights movement that benefit Koreans to this day. So, dialogue. And vice versa: African-Americans have very

little knowledge about Koreans. They only view us as merchants. That was the only contact they have had. African-Americans may find out that they have a lot of commonality with Koreans, in terms of family values, in terms of some struggles that Koreans have had in the past, very similar to African-Americans in their attempts to free themselves from slavery. We have tried our utmost to free ourselves from foreign intervention. So, commonalities and dialogue.

Another thing is demanding federal intervention in domestic programs. Demanding federal intervention around the world to cease. Demanding the peace dividend. Intervention in urban areas: that's where Koreans and African-Americans can come to kind of a coalition-type setting, in that effort. Concretely, Koreans and African-Americans can rally to demand justice for Rodney King. The trial is up at the federal level, and it's important that the Korean community shows solidarity in making sure that Rodney King is served justly.

In terms of actions, I think it's important for young people in the community to get together. In the Korean community, young people who have been educated here, who realize that there is no such thing as the American dream, are coming out to the front, wondering what's happening. They're very curious, willing and eager to understand much more thoroughly about what has happened, and they're wanting to find ways of improving community relations and addressing the problems of socio-economic breakdown. So we have people out there who are looking for ways of getting together. So the thing to do is to organize, in blocks, in communities, at gatherings.

The positive side I believe is really unseen. But the positive thing is that right now there's fertile ground to plant seeds for progressive thinking, to plant seeds for community dialogue, seeds for actually organizing in the community. Now is a good time to do things that the progressive forces have been trying to do for many years, to engage in community dialogue.

There's a notion that Koreans were targetted, and I think that's a very serious allegation. I don't deny that certain Koreans were targetted in certain circum-

stances, because I believe that merchants have been despicable towards the customers, and the customers expressed their anger in the midst of violence. But in general, Korean merchants have not been targetted. The fact is that many other merchants including African-American, Arab, white, Chinese, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Latino have also received damages. So the damages have been just spread around the community.

It appeared that the Korean community received destruction from the outsiders, but that's not really true. People have the notion in mind that Koreatown means that it's inhabited mostly by Koreans, but the fact is that over 80% of Koreatown is inhabited by African-Americans, Latinos and other ethnicities. Koreatown means Korean-owned stores; about 40% of the stores are owned by Koreans. So when these people seized the moment to take essential items such as clothes, appliances, food, from the shops, it appeared that Koreatown was invaded by outsiders from other communities. But this was just purely within the community, and contained within the community.

I also mentioned that the police and the National Guard cordoned off a very large section of Los Angeles, and within it was Koreatown, so since violence was left to grow, that it just grew into Koreatown, that Koreatown was in its path of growth. That is why it appeared that Koreatown was targetted, but it really wasn't.

Also there were a lot of Korean-owned stores in South Central, and when the violence broke out these stores were sacked and it wasn't as if these people specifically targetted Korean stores, but just that there were so many of them.

I'm saying that if we keep saying that Koreans were targetted, we fall into the trap of legitimizing that idea of racial conflict as a motivating factor for the upheaval. That's going to only please the establishment, which always uses that divide and conquer tactic to make sure that we don't amass our strength.

Young Koreans United of Los Angeles:

Attn: Kyung Kyu Lim

2530 Crenshaw Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90016 ▲

UNHEARD VOICES III

Crips and Bloods' Plan to Rebuild L.A.: "GIVE US THE HAMMER AND THE NAILS, AND WE WILL REBUILD THE CITY"

Four months after the L.A. rebellion, plans to rebuild South Central have mostly vanished into thin hot air. Below are excerpts from a plan put forth as coming from the Bloods/Crips after the truce in L.A. (which started just before the rebellion and appears to be getting firmer over time).

1. FACELIFT FOR L.A. (\$2 BILLION)

Every burned and abandoned structure shall be gutted. The city will purchase the property...and build a community center....

All pavements/sidewalks in Los Angeles are in dire need of resurfacing....

All lighting will be increased in all neighborhoods....

All trees will be properly trimmed and maintained....New trees will be planted to increase the beauty of our neighborhoods.

A special task force shall be assigned to focus on the cleanup of all vacant lots and trashed areas throughout the deprived areas. The city will declare a neighborhood clean-up week wherein all residents will be responsible for their block.

2. EDUCATION (\$700 MILLION)

All schools shall have new landscaping...completely upgrade the bathrooms....

...accelerated educational learning programs shall be implemented for the entire Los Angeles Unified School District to provide aggressive teaching methods and provide a curriculum similar to non-economically deprived areas.

The LAUSD will provide up-to-date books to the neglected areas and enough books to ensure that no student has to share a book with another....

All teachers shall be given a standard

competency test to verify that they are up-to-date with subjects and modern teaching methods. Psychological testing will also be required for all teachers and educational administrators, including the Los Angeles School Board, every four years.

3. WELFARE (\$1 BILLION)

(The proposal calls for three new hospitals, forty health care centers and dental clinics within ten miles of each community, as well as the reconstruction of city parks.)

welfare building to serve as day care centers....

4. LAW ENFORCEMENT (\$6 MILLION)

The Los Angeles communities are demanding that they are policed and patrolled by individuals who live in the community and that the commanding officers be ten-year residents of the community in which they serve. Former gang members shall be given a chance to be patrol buddies in assisting in the protection of neighborhoods. [They] will be required to go through police training and must comply to all of the laws. ... Each buddy patrol will be supplied with a video camera and will tape each event and the officers handling the police matter....

5. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (\$20 MILLION)

Loans shall be made available by the federal and state governments to minority entrepreneurs interested in doing business in these deprived areas. ... These loans shall not exceed a 4% interest per year. The businessman shall not be required to have security for the loan; however, he must present at least two

years of business operation and taxes with a city license before funds will be allocated. ... Assistance for business plans shall be made available by the Small Business Administration. ...business owners shall be required to hire 90% of their personnel from within their community ▲



We demand that welfare be completely removed from our community and these welfare programs be replaced by state work and product manufacturing plants that provide the city with certain supplies. State monies shall only be provided for invalids and the elderly. The State of California shall provide a child

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CHICAGO COALITION, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL EXPOSE POLICE TORTURE

BY BOB WELLS

In December 1990 the London office of Amnesty International issued a world bulletin accusing the Chicago Police Department of a policy of systematic torture. This was the first time Amnesty had ever alleged the use of torture by police inside the United States.

The Chicago press corps, which had been turning its back on the story for more than a year, covered the Amnesty report reluctantly and without mentioning the name of the main offender, commander of detectives Jon Burge. Burge's name had been well known in the police department for years. But he first came to public attention in 1989 when Andrew Wilson, a Black man serving a life sentence in the killing of two cops, sued Burge and the police department in federal court for violating his civil rights by torturing him.

A DOZEN TORTURE VICTIMS

During the Wilson trial an anonymous source within the police department, whom the lawyers nicknamed "Deep Badge", identified a dozen other black men who had been tortured by Burge going back to 1972. (Since then more than 70 victims have been identified, all Black men.) The pattern of abuse was the same: officers attached the men's ears, fingers and genitals by electrodes to a hand-powered "black box" generator, and subjected them to violent electric shocks; covered their heads with plastic shopping bags (or, when they bit their way through, by rubber typewriter covers) to the point of suffocation; forced guns into their mouths while Burge or his men clipped off "shots" in a game of Russian roulette; squeezed their noses, fingers or genitals with bolt cutters while Burge threatened them with

dismemberment. They even described the same little racist 'jokes' by Burge. In several cases he introduced Black prisoners to another white cop in the station, saying "this is Machine-gun Gordon, he killed Fred Hampton, and he'd like to kill you too."

TORTURE SQUAD EXPOSED

The federal jury ruled that Andrew Wilson's constitutional rights had been violated and that the Chicago police had a policy of torturing suspected cop killers, but they would not find against Burge. Seeing that the police system and the courts would not deal with this torturer, progressive lawyers joined with activists to form the Task Force to Confront Police Violence. Over the next two years, this group forced police torture into public view, with demonstrations and press conferences at Burge's police station and many other city offices.

What emerged was that we were not dealing just with one or two rogue police torturers but with a consistent policy of the Irish-dominated white Chicago Democratic machine to control the Black community through police terrorism, and to defend and protect police terrorists. The first complaint of torture against Burge came in 1971 just after he joined the force following a stint as a military police interrogator in Vietnam. Over the next 15 years while he accumulated a file of torture complaints, he was promoted up through the ranks to one of the highest jobs in the department on the strength of his ability to obtain confessions from Black suspects. Along the way he developed a torture squad composed entirely of white detectives, and his techniques began to spread through the department. In 1982 when

two white cops were killed on the city's Westside, Burge personally directed a week-long wave of terror. Officers set up roadblocks, kicked in doors, rounded up Black men en masse and took them to the station house where Burge and others subjected them to terrifying brutality until they "gave up a name." Eventually, Andrew Wilson was arrested and his torture followed.

Because of unrelenting pressure from the Task Force, Burge and two other white cops were finally suspended in late '91 and charged with torture—but only of Andrew Wilson. The white establishment has rallied to get them off the hook. Mayors Jane Byrne and Richard M. Daley have personally supported them. Two chiefs of police have suppressed an internal report charging Burge with torturing more than 50 Black men. (It became public only because of "Deep Badge" and a court order.) The Chicago Tribune reported that until Los Angeles blew up after the "Rodney King verdict," the police board was "probably" going to reinstate Burge and the others with back pay.

KEEPING THE LID ON

The savage beating of Rodney King (and so many thousands of others), the wave of police killings of Blacks, the use of torture in Chicago (and, let's face it, in other cities), and the surge in the Black prison population are not the result of rogue cops or crime waves. They are the way an oppressed people is kept under control. Though it will be an important victory to get Jon Burge removed from the Chicago Police Department, we know this will not solve the problem. But if we can convince America that there is a problem, it will be a good beginning. ▲

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UNHEARD VOICES IV

CENTRAL AMERICANS DENOUNCE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AFTER LOS ANGELES REBELLION

The Central American Refugee Center (CARECEN) of Los Angeles has documented widespread civil and human rights abuses of Latinos by Los Angeles police in the weeks following the Rodney King rebellion.

CARECEN's investigation revealed that at least 452 persons were stopped for little or no reason by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), interrogated as to their immigration status, and summarily handed over to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), with no criminal charges ever brought against them.

The LAPD acknowledged that these incidents were in direct violation of city law regarding the police department's intervention in immigration matters.

Other Latinos were stopped, questioned in the street, and arrested by Border Patrol forces sent to the city supposedly to protect residents. Still others were arrested for alleged undocumented status after unconstitutional arrests and interrogations in the course of apartment-building raids, conducted without search warrants, supposedly targeted at suspected looters.

many detainees, even in cases where they had no criminal records. Dozens of people were subsequently held in INS custody under appalling and overcrowded conditions, which drove some detainees to urgently seek deportation rather than remain in detention. In less than two weeks, over 700 persons arrested during the rebellion were removed from the U.S. by the INS.

City and state laws prohibit the LAPD from detaining persons on the basis of their immigration status or handing them over to the INS unless they

LAPD RACISM

The unlawful interrogations and arrests were largely due, CARECEN believes, to racist comments by LA Chief of Police and U.S. Attorney General singling out Latino and Central American immigrants as a major cause of the uprising. Fearing unlawful arrest, many inner-city residents were reported to CARECEN as being too fearful of leaving their apartments even to go to the store to buy food for their families.

"The incidents of the post-riot period



INS REIGN OF TERROR

After being delivered into INS custody, many of the arrested Latinos were pressured into signing voluntary departure requests, thereby giving up their rights to an immigration hearing. The INS imposed exorbitant bonds of up to \$20,000 on

have been charged with serious crimes.

The Border Patrol activities in Los Angeles, meanwhile, violated constitutional protections which require that interrogations and arrests be based on probable cause to believe a crime has been committed, and not on ethnic appearance alone.

will only serve to heighten the tension and mistrust between the city's Latino community and the LAPD and other law enforcement authorities—tension and mistrust which must be avoided in Los Angeles these days at all cost," CARECEN charged. ▲

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Death Penalty = Legal Lynching

an interview with Pat Clark of
Death Penalty Focus

We interviewed Pat Clark on May 13, 1992, three weeks after Robert Alton Harris died in the gas chamber in San Quentin, the first execution in California in 25 years. Ms. Clark, a Black woman, is executive director of Death Penalty Focus.

No KKK: Why has the death penalty been reinstituted at this time, in California and nationally?

Pat Clark: The death penalty is like legalized lynching in many respects. You only need to look at who is on death row across the nation. In California we find that 52% of the people on death row are people of color, 36% of them Afro-Americans, 12% Mexican-Americans, and the rest evenly split between Asians and Native Americans. The death penalty is used by politicians to give the appearance of being tough on crime, but we know that it is also targeted against Afro-Americans specifically. I think it is one of the most overt forms of racism that exists in our country and, as far as I am concerned, the most serious human rights violation that we have.

At the same time you can talk about 52% of the people on death row being people of color, when you look at who the victims of people on death row are, you find that, overwhelmingly, 95% of the victims of death row inmates are white. For example, the first white person since the reinstatement of the death penalty in 1977 to be executed for killing a Black person occurred last year, in 1991. And even then, that person actually killed nine other people, all of whom were white; it just so happened that the last person he killed was a Black person. It's very telling that in twenty years since the reinstatement of the death penalty and with over 170 people executed in this country since that reinstatement, only one white person has been executed for killing a Black person.

No KKK: So Black life is considered cheap in the United States.

Pat Clark: I think "considered cheap" is being generous. There is no value placed on Black life—we only have to look at how Rodney King was treated. Here we have a situation where, as Tom Bradley said, we saw it with our own eyes, and it didn't mean anything. We saw Rodney King being beaten brutally and viciously by white police officers, and still you had a jury that came out and said these people are innocent.

No KKK: What is the perspective of your organization on the death penalty in general? You're saying it is inequitable; would it be good if it was made more equitable? Would that be an answer?

Pat Clark: No, absolutely not. The Death Penalty Focus of California adamantly opposes killing people under any circumstances. First of all, we don't believe that you can say there's any way to humanely kill someone; we have got to take responsibility for the fact that killing is wrong, whether it's an individual that kills or the state that kills.

Furthermore, we don't believe that there's any power, whether it be the state or whether it be a religious entity, that can determine who should be killed and who shouldn't be. Even if you felt that there were circumstances under which the death penalty might be applied, there are just too many examples of innocent people who have been executed. We know that in this century alone, 23 innocent people have been executed. And 349 innocent people have been convicted in capital cases; fortunately, their innocence was determined before they were executed. This morning I was listening on one of the morning news programs, and it said that a Russian spy said that the Rosenbergs—who were executed in the electric chair in 1953—were innocent, and never were responsible for passing on atomic secrets to the Soviets. That's the

kind of thing you get into when you play life and death games. The U.S. should know better; they've not been able to determine how to do this in a fair and equitable way, and that's because there is no fair and equitable way to kill someone. We're playing games when we try to make it into something that is fair and right and just.

No KKK: Could you speak a little about the broader question of imprisonment in general? Right now there are over a million people in prisons and jails nationally, and 100,000 in California.

Pat Clark: I have worked in places like Alabama on prison reform issues, and I can tell you that unfortunately for some sectors of our society, prisons have become an incredible economic boon to a place that get a prison moved in. It's a guarantee of a certain number of jobs, and unfortunately people are making money off the backs of people—many of whom should not be in prison. Again, we talk about prison, the death penalty and a criminal justice system, and overt racism is a major part of how everything gets played out. It's not by accident, again, that 25% of all Black men will come under some form of criminal justice supervision at some point in their life.

One of the reasons why I am so involved in this issue of the death penalty is because I have two nephews that I'm raising, 7 and 5. The society that we're living in right now, the society that I see, is not going to give two young boys a break. I know that there is a great possibility that they will wind up in jail or prison at some point in their lives regardless of what kind of background and training and value system I implement, because the society outside of my community doesn't place the same value on issues and philosophy that I do.

It's very telling that we're willing to spend so much money on prisons at the same time that we're slashing money from

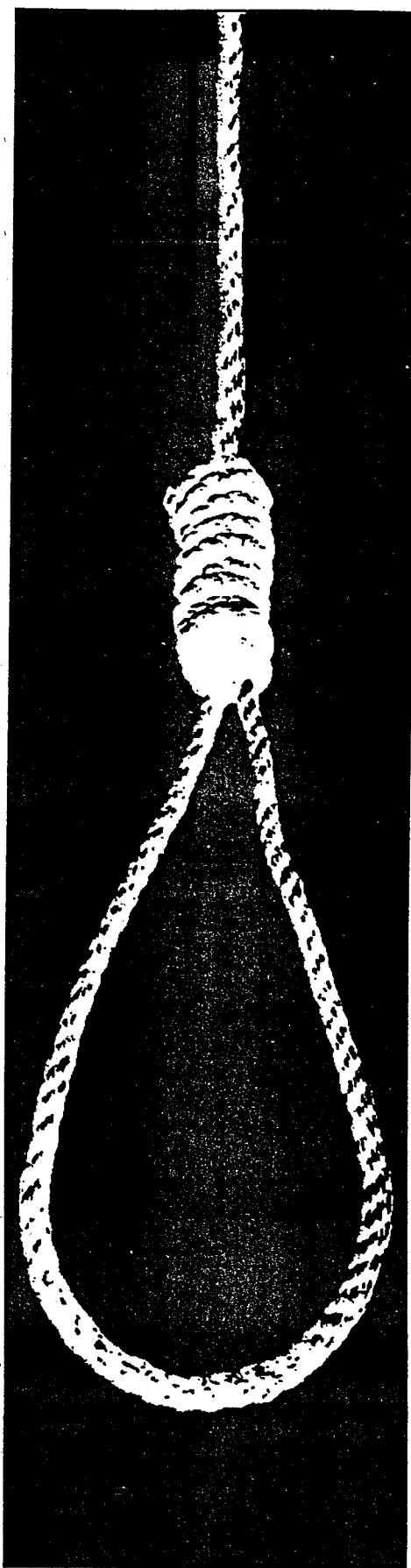
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education, we're slashing money from job development, we're slashing money from housing, we're slashing money from drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs. All of those programs that supposedly give a damn about the quality of individual life have been slashed repeatedly. But if you look at the 1990 election in California the only sector that was voted any money whatsoever was the prison sector. I think there's a two-pronged message. There's the message that we don't want Blacks to ever gain total access to the system. Secondly, people have realized that prisons are profitable to some people, and again, it's not to people who are people of color.

No KKK: I found a statement by Ralph Arons, past warden of Marion Federal Prison in Illinois, who testified in federal court that the purpose of the Marion Control Unit is to control revolutionary attitudes in the prison system and in the society at large. I wonder if they really have any intention of protecting people from crime, and making things better in society in general, or if the intention really is rather to just put a lid on everybody?

Pat Clark: Yeah, the prison system is not about change, it's not about rehabilitation. The prison systems in this country doesn't even use the word rehabilitation anymore. So that can give you an indication of how far away from the initial concept of prisons we've come. By and large, prisons are used for warehousing people. And I think it's a very telling statement that this person said, that what they want to do is control possible revolutionary activities, and where they expect those activities to come from are from people of color. They know that people of color have been oppressed, and that at some point in time that oppression is going to be challenged. So it's not by accident that you have so many people of color in prison.

No KKK: Well, that leads us to Los Angeles. The incredible police state that's been there all along was exposed by the Rodney King beating in the first place. And now 20,000 people have been arrested for looting and rioting; the Immigration Service has been rounding up and deporting hundreds of people; there's a lot of focus on the six Black men charged with beating a white truck driver during the re-



bellion. What's behind the state's response?

Pat Clark: I think one of the reasons that you have so many people of color justly or unjustly going to prison is because there are no legitimate means to make a living, to survive, and so people survive the best way that they can. For example, the people who were involved in the looting and the rioting and so forth. I remember seeing one young Black girl, when people were about to burn a building, with shoes in it. She went in to get herself a pair of shoes, because, she said, "If those shoes are going to burn up anyhow, it makes better sense for them to be on my feet." Now for me, that was logic that made sense.

By and large, what happened was that the rioting and the arson fed into Governor Wilson's and George Bush's ability to take the focus away from the real injustice, which is that four white police officers specifically, and many more in addition to that, before our eyes, betrayed not only Rodney King, but betrayed a whole sector of people.

For people like Wilson and Bush to try to prevail upon people to exercise calm and reason makes no sense whatsoever. One of the things we have to remember is that for years and years and years it was law enforcement, back in the fifties and the sixties, who encouraged the Klan, encouraged white supremacist organizations to do violent harm to Black people. Just because those four police officers had on blue suits does not change the imagery that's only too real in the history of Black Americans. Historically we know that there's a connection far too often between law enforcement and our worst enemies, and to see those policemen get off was like reliving the fifties.

I really believe that the execution of Robert Harris and the Rodney King verdict were tied together and jointly responsible for the level of violence that we saw recently. Here we had a state saying that because of their respect for law and order they were going to implement this ultimate punishment. But as soon as the verdict came out as far as Rodney King was concerned, it was Pete Wilson, our esteemed governor of this state who said "Violence begets violence." I just want to

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know, whose violence begets violence? Because he was a conspirator in the ultimate violence, which was supposed to deter people from crime, which was supposed to give people a new respect for law and order. It's just amazing to me that the worst crime and the worst violence to occur in this state happened after Pete Wilson and Dan Lundgren, the attorney general, implemented violence against an individual.

All the candidates for the US Senate seats here in California are in favor of the death penalty. Bill Clinton—who is this Bill Clinton who is supposed to be the man for all people, who goes back [to Arkansas] to personally oversee executions? One was the execution of a mentally retarded Black man who didn't have any capacity to discern right or wrong. Is that the kind of leader we want? That's not a leader to me. It seems to me that *people* have got to lead, and bring the politicians along.

No KKK: How do you think people's minds can be changed about the issue of crime?

Pat Clark: One of the things we need to remember is that even with the implementation of the death penalty, which is supposed to be the ultimate penalty, in states that have consistently used the death penalty like Texas and Louisiana, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, the crime rate has actually gone up. And it makes sense: in California, we're willing to spend a billion dollars to try to kill 328 people, whereas that money would serve a lot more children, people who are trying to gain jobs, housing, whatever. Until we change our priorities we're going to have a high crime rate, because those people who do not *have* are going to find a way to get what they need, legally or illegally. That makes sense to me; that's logical to me. If I were a person without a job and I had the three kids that I have and a mother to support, I'm going to find a way to support them one way or the other. So until we allow people to take advantage of the same opportunities that we ourselves want to have, we're going to have a high rate of crime. But we can take that same money that's being used to try to kill a few people, and place it back at the front end of the problem, and start dealing that way. ▲

"CAPTURE HIM, BEAT HIM AND TREAT HIM LIKE DIRT...."

BY MUMIA ABU-JAMAL, 12 JULY 1991

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a prominent Philadelphia journalist, a former Black Panther, and a supporter of the MOVE organization. He was sentenced to death in 1982 on a frame-up charge of killing a policeman. Mumia's appeals are quickly running out. Please help save his life! Demand a new trial for Mumia: write Pennsylvania Governor Robert Casey, Main Capitol Building, Room 225, Harrisburg PA 16652. For more information, write to Equal Justice, Box 5206, Hyattsville MD 20782.

In the sprawling, outsized metropolis that is Los Angeles a jack-booted army of alleged "civil servants" treat the civilians they are charged with serving with ill-disguised contempt. In the privacy of their patrol cars, city police tap out brief messages on lap top computers, unit to unit communications of seething hatred for many of the people they are sworn to protect.

The revelations of the Christopher Commission are telling of the mentality behind the badge in L.A.:

- "...if you encounter these Negroes, shoot first and ask questions later..."
- "I would love to drive down Slauson [a minority street] with a flamethrower...we would have barbeque..."
- "Capture him, beat him and treat him like dirt...after I beat him, what do I book him for...?"
- "Hi... just got Mexertise for the night."
- "Sounds like monkey-slapping time."
- "Did [you] U arrest the 85 yr old lady or just beat her up?"
- "We just slapped her around a bit...she's getting MT [medical treatment] right now."

Cop-generated slurs of this ilk continue for pages.

To many African-Americans and Chicanos in Southern California, the tone and tenor of these once secret communications evoke more a sense of confirmation than surprise.

The liberal clamor for police chief Daryl Gates' resignation is a reflection of the limits of liberalism and its dependence on symbol over substance, for the departure of Gates changes not one iota the palpable aura of hatred which radiates from the rank and file of the LAPD.

All of the Christopher Commission reforms, if implemented this very minute, would do naught to purge the pervasive taint of militaristic mania that dominates the LAPD and many similar bodies nationwide.

The big city elites will scrub a few faces, sacrifice a few scapegoats, publish reports, memoranda, etc., *ad infinium*, but in the end, they will change nothing.

For the function of the police is not to protect the people, but to protect the system, and its elite. If this needs to be done by alienating the black, the brown, the poor, the homeless, well—"them's the breaks," for none of these groups wield state power.

I suggest you carefully re-read the cryptic remarks noted above.

If you peer closely enough, you may see yourself. ▲

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With anti-racists about a decade behind the white supremacist movement in media sophistication, JBAKC wanted its new video, *"Behind the Burning Cross: Racism U.S.A.,"* to be a go-anywhere-tell-everyone presentation; a teaching, agitating, and mobilizing tool; a kind of 30-minute All-You-Need-to-Know-About-the-Klan-to-Get-Really-Pissed-Off-and-Start-Organizing-in-Your-Community.

So we crammed a lot of information—and drama—into a fast-moving half hour. We've shown it to community groups, in schools, churches, music clubs, and on public access TV, and audiences have told us it does the job. The *Guardian* newspaper described *Behind the Burning Cross* as "ambitious ... a quick-cutting survey of the Ku Klux Klan and other racist groups, individuals and trends nationwide since Reconstruction." The video features documentary footage of Klan cross-burnings, rallies, and paramilitary training sessions; white supremacist leaders Tom Metzger and David Duke speaking to their followers; racist rock bands; Nazi skinheads in street marches and brawls; anti-racist skins from the groups SHARP and ARA; and police attacks on civil rights marchers in the '60s and anti-Klan demonstrators in the '90s.

Interspersed with the documentary footage and archival shots dating back to the Civil War are excerpts from Hollywood films dealing with the Klan: from D.W. Griffith's *"Birth of a Nation,"* which helped revive the Klan in the 1920s, to Costa-Gavras' *"Betrayed,"* which dramatized the robberies and assassinations carried out by the Order.

Some of the footage is rarely seen—and truly eye-opening. In documentary footage from 1924, 40,000 robed Klansmen march through Washington, DC. In one sequence, White Aryan Resistance leader Tom Metzger is con-



VIDEO REVIEW

fronted on a talk show by a former body-guard.

The video is especially strong in examples of calculated Klan violence. In another segment, a voiceover reminds us, as we watch Texas white-supremacist Louis Beam leading camo-clad Klansmen on military maneuvers, that "Beam, Metzger and their followers are not just talking; nor are they playing weekend warriors." The evidence is everywhere: We see the outcome of Klan rhetoric and Nazi organizing again and again: bombed churches, assassinations, gay-bashings, anti-racist marchers (Black and white) beaten by paramilitary goons or skinheads. There's a lot of kicking and clubbing in this half hour, along with historical stills of smiling whites at lynchings and racist rallies; the true history of "racism U.S.A." isn't pretty.

But the video goes into the American psyche, too, with the degrading, stereotyped images of thick-lipped, watermelon-eating Blacks and grinning, big-nosed Jews that have filled popular imagery for two centuries—these images have shaped Americans' most gut-level feelings about race. (White supremacy in the media was not the invention of Tom Metzger; he just carried it onto cable TV.) The video argues that the continuous history of the Klan owes more to grassroots attitudes

than it does to the endurance of an extremist fringe.

The video is valuable, too, in showing that, although Blacks have always been its main target, the white supremacist movement attacks Jews, gays and lesbians, and any women who reject the traditional "little woman" role. News clips and interviews with farmers, in rural areas of the midwest where few Blacks live, document the use of anti-Semitic, anti-gay, and anti-woman ideology (now being milked so effectively by Bush and Quayle under the banner of family values) to win support for Aryan political and religious groups. Klan and Nazi leaders speak freely in these video clips: The Klan's view of abortion? "All it does is give the Jew the legal license to kill the white Aryan Christian." The extreme right's plan for gays? Like Nazi Germany's, extermination.

And the video is perhaps unique in dramatically explaining why the police and courts cannot be counted on—that only a broad anti-racist movement will defeat the white supremacists. The case against the FBI is particularly strong, exposing their shameful support for the Klan in the 60s. In a chilling, dramatized confrontation, a Black Freedom Rider

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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UNHEARD VOICES V

Atlanta University Center Students: "THE ISSUE IS MORE THAN POLICE TERRORISM— IT'S SELF-DETERMINATION"

No KKK! interviewed Khalid Stewart. Stewart, a recent Spelman graduate, was a leader of the Black Youth Coalition, an ad hoc group that arose in response to the L.A. acquittals.

These observations are excerpts from a longer interview.

KS: (The night of the verdict) Wednesday ... about 11:30 p.m. a group of Atlanta University Center students marched down to the state Capitol ... there was no person or group of people at that point to give leadership....

Thursday another group of Atlanta University Center students marched from the school. By 6 o'clock Black youth in Atlanta had shut down the entire public transportation system of the city.... This was a manifestation of frustration with the system. I believe that it was completely and entirely spontaneous and entirely disorganized. And it was beautiful for that, because it didn't take somebody standing on a corner to say "Look, we have to do something." The youth were ready to be out there and they just came.

The city of Atlanta arrested over 300 people and charged them with disorderly conduct ... They were using preventive detention, sweeping the streets in order to prevent anything else from happening.

Friday, the Atlanta Police Department illegally invaded the Atlanta University Center. The students had planned a peaceful noon rally on the campus, but by 8 a.m. the campus was completely surrounded by the police. The rally was stopped when it tried to leave the campus; then the police invaded. Some one picked up a rock, and the cops went crazy. A liquor store got destroyed. ... A lot of students got beat up

and taken to jail again Friday night.

No KKK: What organizing grew out of these events?

KS: One of the organizations that emerged was Students for African-American Empowerment (SAAE). They were in the forefront of taking documentation, affidavits from people after everything happened, collecting data

***We don't control
anything in our
community. When
we get beat down
by cops we can't
even go to our
own court.***

and video documentation. I believe that SAAE is trying to become a permanent organization in the Atlanta University Center.

I worked with a formation called the Black Youth Coalition. Our two purposes were to provide students with survival aids they needed, as well as to try to come with some way to lend some direction to all the rebellions.

We decided to have a rally in West End Park where we would make the issue self-determination and highlight the contradictions that brought us to the point of rebellion. The rally talked about a boycott of all unprincipled nonblack

businesses in the black community, and that we would only support those black businesses that were accountable and responsible to our communities. Out of that event emerged the African Community Coalition.

I work with the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement. We've called for a human rights campaign that other organizations and individuals who are not in the Grassroots Movement can participate in. The first part is a petition that we're going to present to the City Council. It states that our civil and human rights were violated by illegal arrests and the invasion of the Atlanta University Center. We call for them to turn over their evidence to a community organization to investigate their wrongdoing.

We're also planning a rally around Columbus Day, and then a tribunal around police terror in our [Black] nation.

The police weren't just the issue. ... It's not about the fact that Rodney King got beat down by police. It's about the fact that we don't control *anything* in our community. When we get beat down by cops we can't even go to our own court ... When we want to go to the grocery store we can't even go to our own grocery store. When they turn off our telephones 15 minutes before a rally we can't do anything about because we don't control Southern Bell.

And so that became the issue, not police terrorism, but self-determination, which was the real issue. It's we have to control our own communities, and then we believe, in the New Afrikan Independence Movement, that we must control our own nation, that we must be independent. ▲

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MORE BRIEFS

Black people while bringing money to the Aryan Nations coffers. Weaver claimed to be part of the racist Christian Identity church of Aryan Nations leader Richard Butler, whose heavily armed encampment at Hayden Lake, 60 miles south of Weaver's cabin, has been a center for nazi skinheads and other white supremacist organizations.

Supporters brought the Weaver family food and clothing for the year and a half they stayed in the cabin under surveillance by Federal marshals. As Federal forces closed in on the cabin as many as 100 supporters staged a vigil at the roadblock.

ALAN BERKMAN RELEASED

Dr. Alan Berkman, a founding member of the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee and a long-time anti-racist and anti-imperialist activist, was released from prison in June 1992 after

serving a 12 year sentence for weapons possession and "other politically motivated criminal acts" (a designation that Amnesty International uses).

While in prison Berkman developed Hodgkin's disease, a form of lymphatic cancer. The Bureau of Prisons ignored a judge's order to send him to the hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, the one hospital in the prison system adequate to treat his cancer. But hundreds of letters from supporters put enough pressure on the Bureau that he served his sentence at Rochester instead of at the notorious Marion control unit.

Talking to No KKK! after his release, Berkman said that for the progressive white prisoners locked down in U.S. prisons, anti-racism is at the core of their politics. "For people inside it means a lot to know that the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee and other anti-racist organizers are active."

Berkman remains as committed as ever to fighting against white su-

premacy. When we talked to him in early September he was working in a coalition to build a national demon-



Dr. Alan Berkman and Laura Whitehorn

stration in November to support Mumia Abu-Jamal, Black political prisoner on Pennsylvania's death row. (See article by Mumia Abu-Jamal, p. 18, in this issue.) ▲

VOTERS ON THE RIGHT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

state level. The organization counts as its members nearly 3,000 of the 7,500 state legislators across the country.

ALEC's strategy is based on the fact that most state legislators hold other jobs and have limited time and resources. There is a high turnover and many legislators are new to the lawmaking process. In the majority of states, legislators have little or no staff and few resources for legislative research. ALEC tries to fill this gap with the conservative agenda. ALEC sponsors meetings and seminars for lawmakers and publishes a newsletter and a source book containing model bills or legislative guidelines on a host of issues. These model bills have been enacted into law in many states. With a \$3.3 million annual budget, ALEC can pay for legislators' trips to meetings, as well as provide

them with access to an extensive information network and electronic data systems. By calling ALEC, legislators and

**Right-wing controlled
hospital boards don't
permit resident doctors
to perform abortions.**

businesses can obtain sample legislation, supporting data, studies, and expert testimony, and information on what other states have done on that issue.

The convergence on the local political scene in the last few years of far-

right politicians; the Christian right and fundamentalist and Pentecostal churches; and ultraconservative think tanks, foundations, and political action committees has created an electoral movement that can, if not exposed and opposed, have far-reaching impact in communities across the country—from hospital boards that refuse to permit resident doctors to perform abortions, to school boards that ban books and block sex education, to city councils that turn down gay rights ordinances. Regardless whether the presidency and Congress are controlled by the Democrats or Republicans, the right-wing Christian grass roots effort can be expected to continue and expand its efforts throughout the country in the years ahead. ▲

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UNHEARD VOICES VI

"LESBIANS AND GAY MEN ARE PART OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"

When the Rodney King verdict hit the streets in LA, the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum (Forum), went to work. They organized a coalition including, among others, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, The Gay and Lesbian Community Service Center, ACTUP/LA, and Being Alive-PWA Coalition. This coalition sponsored a Buy Black Day (focusing Black buying power on Black and other merchants of color), a Rodney King "flu" day which coincided with a demonstration in Simi Valley, and a Boycott day, in which people in the community were asked not to spend any money at all. They also organized educational forums to address the issues that gave rise to the rebellion.

The Forum's agenda, according to organizer Phill Wilson, was "to provide ways for people to respond to the verdict that were nonviolent and not destructive to the community, while affirming our right to be outraged and to express those feelings."

Demonstrations at LA City Hall had been banned. Even demonstrations around the Governor Wilson's anti-welfare initiative were not allowed to happen. Most large gatherings on the streets of LA were banned for more than three

weeks after the rebellion. A curfew was strictly enforced.

In spite of these restrictions, the Black lesbian and gay march in support of the rebellion took place Tuesday May 12. After a press conference, cars took

Lesbian Community Service Center, the Latasha Harlan Justice Committee, AIDS Health Care Foundation, Queer Nation, Don Jackson (formerly of the Long Beach Police Department) and other speakers on police violence and harassment.

According to demonstration participant Ferd Egan, Executive Director of Being Alive - PWA Coalition, "many gay, lesbian and AIDS activists felt tremendous frustration" around the LA rebellion, "and a personal need to take an anti-racist stance in the midst of the media hype. This demonstration was clearly identified as an action taken by our community, and at the same time it helped to build support for an anti-racist agenda."

Said organizer Phill Wilson, "Our work in the gay community had tremendous value, as we organized very inclusive and diverse participation under Black lesbian and gay leadership. As out gay people working

around this issue we made our presence felt in the African American community as well - a community from which we are often excluded. We wanted to show that gay people are an integral part of that community."

Wilson stressed, however, that "the tension that created the uprising has not gone away. It is going to get worse. Look at what is happening now, with the California budget. It's not over." ▲



off from the Westwood Federal Building plastered with signs pointing to the roots of the rebellion in 12 years of neglect by the federal government in cities. With horns blaring, the caravan drove to Simi Valley, where a rally was held in front of the Ventura County Courthouse.

Sponsors and speakers included United Lesbians of African Heritage, GLAAD, United Colors, Act Up, Being Alive-PWA Coalition, the Gay and

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VIDEO REVIEW

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tells Attorney General Robert Kennedy, "We were American citizens taking a bus ride and we had the crap beaten out of us. When the KKK came after us in Mississippi, the FBI stood aside counting the blows." In an historical clip, a beaten, hospitalized white Freedom Rider, barely able to speak, says, "Segregation must be stopped. It must be broken down. We're dedicated to this. We'll take hitting. We'll take beating. We're willing to accept death. But we're going to keep coming." More recent documentary footage shows police protecting Klan marchers and turning around and beating anti-Klan demonstrators. Footage from Austin, Texas shows over a dozen police clubbing a single demonstrator cornered against a building. In footage from the infamous 1979 Greensboro Massacre (as horrifying to see as the Rodney King videotape), we see Klansmen shoot four anti-Klan activists. The police had told the Klan where to find the unarmed demonstrators—and then stayed away until the shooting was over. The documentary footage offers a strong visual argument for the right of communities under attack to defend themselves against violence. "Any community has the right to determine how they will struggle for freedom."

This video *should* be in every school and library. While Tom Metzger has his *Race and Reason* talk show on 50 cable

stations, the Aryan Nations uses a computer networks to target enemies, fundamentalist Christians have reached millions with commercial radio, Nazi skinheads have used thrash music, and David Duke has used elections, the anti-racist movement has struggled along with low-budget newspapers (like this one), sporadic 'zines, JBAKC's hotline, and occasional Rock Against Racism shows. Even the network talk shows use white power advocates to attract viewers. Anti-racist activists need, particularly, to reach young people, and *Behind the Burning Cross* has done this. In a recent showing in a Phoenix high school, the video led to a discussion of black pride vs. white pride. In Santa Rosa, students considered how white and black students could overcome differences to work together. Students in San Jose questioned violence in opposing racist violence.

Behind the Burning Cross: Racism U.S.A. is guaranteed to get a discussion going wherever it is shown. 29 minutes, color. Available in VHS format (inquire about other formats). Price: \$15-25 sliding scale to individuals; \$50 to institutions. Order from John Brown Anti-Klan Committee, 220 Ninth Street #443, San Francisco, CA 94103, or order by phone (415) 330-5363. ▲

NEIGHBORS AGAINST NAZIS MARCH AGAINST RACISTS IN SIMI VALLEY

White supremacist Richard Barrett, head of the Mississippi-based Nationalist Movement, paid his second visit on September 12, 1991, to the town of Simi Valley, California, where a jury acquitted four Los Angeles cops of wrongdoing in the brutal beating of Rodney King. A demonstration of 500 anti-racists, mostly local residents, met his visit. The demonstration was organized by Neighbors Against Nazis, a Simi Valley-based coalition that includes Mothers Against Supremacists, the Simi-Conejo and San Fernando Valley chapters of NOW and the NAACP, ACT UP/Ventura, as well as many concerned individuals. The coalition was joined by People Against Racist Terror (PART), from L.A.

Police attacked the picket line, riding into the crowd on horses and setting police dogs on people in the crowd. There were several injuries and arrests.

Neighbors Against Nazis plans to continue their work against racism and police brutality in Simi Valley and Ventura County.

They are participating in an anti-bigotry action network initiated by PART, and can be reached by phone at (805) 583-1213. ▲

No KKK! No Fascist USA!
220 9th Street, #443
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Articles and letters may be mailed to the address above.

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NATIONS WITHIN A NATION

BY VALERIE TALIMAN

Heidi Blackeye and Estevez, Native American anti-nuclear activists, are headed off to Europe on a speaking tour, leaving their American passports at home.

Heidi and Pauline instead will present their Western Shoshone Nation passports as the official document that verifies their identity—women of a nation within a nation.

It is not the first time Native nations have refused to supplant their own national status and issued passports. The Onandaga and Hopi nations have used their own passports for years.

Countries all over the globe have readily accepted these passports because they recognize something a lot of Americans do not seem to know—many Indian nations did not give up their national identity when they were overrun by Euro-Americans who came to this country beginning in 1492. The Western Shoshone are a prime example of this.

In 1969, the U.S. acknowledged it was “unable to discover an formal extinguishment” to Western Shoshone title to lands in Nevada. Nonetheless, the U.S. courts decided that the Shoshones had somehow lost their land and set aside \$26,154,000 to pay for 22 million acres of land it stole (at 1892 prices of about \$1 per acre). The Western Shoshone people continue to refuse the money sitting in the U.S. Treasury today—they want their land.

In light of this, it is appalling how the United States hypocritically hurls accusations and sends military might all over the world to “protect the sovereignty” of smaller nations.

That’s what President Bush said the Persian Gulf war was all about. We supposedly went there to protect the sovereignty of a smaller, weaker nation because it was “the right thing to do.”

So where is that protection of sovereignty in America, whose government

has murdered, raped, and plundered Native nations within?

After 500 years of resistance and cultural survival, Native nations are joining with other indigenous peoples to speak out against the erosion of sovereignty—it happened to Native nations like it’s happening to smaller nations throughout the world.

Many of those nations who know America’s past—and even teach it to their children in schools—acknowledge and respect the sovereign status of Native nations that continue to exist in America.



So, in Europe, for example, so-called “Indians” are very popular, so popular in fact that many Native Americans are repeatedly invited back there to educate people about their history of survival in the face of U.S. aggression and injustice.

Many Europeans point their fingers at America and shake their heads in disgust when they hear American politicians giving lip service to the “need to protect sovereignty.” The U.S. does not walk the way it talks, and people around the globe know it.

And more will know as young activists like Heidi Blackeye and respected elders like Pauline Estevez bring strong words—and Western Shoshone passports—on this European tour. ▲

1492

Black sand
white foam (gold
almost)
In violent light.



Three ships:
a red-throated
songbird alerts
them to land.

It is the slit-

throat

bird.
There they stand
naked.
Two men, three women,
one child left on shore:
crow black hair,
skin the color of fired copper.

First a shot.
Their entrails stream
away like frightened fish.
The earth
they call mother
grown malignant,
strange.

They want gold
but there isn't any gold
just the sun
which might have been
enough.

For gold they
hack off their hands,
hang them from
Cassava trees
thirteen in number
symbolizing Apostles
and the Lord in his mercy.

Within twenty-five years
not one Arawak
survives.

—Maggie Jaffe

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